

Main Street Promenade Outdoor Dining Guidelines

**DOWNTOWN
HOUSTON+**

February 2026

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HOUSTON+**

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INTRODUCTION

Downtown Houston is experiencing a dynamic resurgence, with tenant encroachment playing a key role in activating streetscapes, enhancing walkability, and supporting local businesses. These Design Guidelines aim to provide clear, practical standards that foster vibrant, safe, and accessible dining environments throughout the downtown area. By establishing a cohesive framework for layout, materials and the permit process, this document ensures that outdoor dining contributes to the overall aesthetic, functionality, and economic vitality of Downtown.

Purpose

In 2021, the City introduced the More Space: Main Street 1.0 program, closing blocks of Main Street to vehicular traffic allowing businesses to expand into the outdoor space during the pandemic. A temporary ordinance was developed to provide guidelines for these outdoor spaces.

Spurred by the success of the More Space program, the City approved a permanent closure of the blocks giving them back to the community. To provide a vision, the Main Street Promenade project worked closely with the community and city officials to imagine the future of these blocks.

This document aims to uphold the vision set forth in the Main Street Promenade project and support the permanent ordinance that will replace the temporary ordinance.

The Downtown Houston Outdoor Dining Design Guidelines serve as an all-encompassing development toolkit for business owners seeking to establish outdoor cafés in the downtown area. These guidelines support a new outdoor dining ordinance and outline the necessary procedures, design standards, and regulatory requirements involved in planning, permitting, and maintaining outdoor dining spaces. By providing clear and consistent direction, the document is intended to promote the creation of attractive, accessible, and safe café environments that enhance the public realm while aligning with city policies and urban design goals.

TIMELINE

2021 - 2022	More Space Main Street 1.0
2023	Main Street Promenade Basis of Design
2024	Main Street Promenade Design + Engineering
April 2024	Thrive Storefront Grant program goes live
April 2024	Facade Grant program goes live
June 2025	Main Street Promenade Construction
June 2025	Outdoor Dining Design Guidelines

How to Use This Guide

Step 1

Review the Design Guidelines document.

Learn about the intent and goals of the Design Guidelines, and the requirements for creating, permitting and maintaining an Outdoor Dining area.

Understand the various site elements that comprise an outdoor dining area.

Consider the importance of safety and accessibility of public spaces.

Identify and review additional existing codes and regulations that must be adhered to. Refer to Appendix for resources.

Step 2

Determine your Space Type.

Identify which type of outdoor dining area best fits the type of space your business is improving.

 Bistro

 Cafe

 Outdoor Room

Locate potential cafe areas within your establishment and understand what site elements are allowed.

Identify the required setbacks and buffers specific to your area.

Step 3

Apply for Outdoor Dining Permit.

Choose your site elements/ furnishings.

Create a site plan that illustrates the layout of your cafe space.

Ensure you are meeting all safety and accessibility requirements.

Utilize the checklist as a guide to ensure criteria is met, and submit an encroachment application.

Step 4

Operate & Maintain your space.

Understand the requirements for day-to-day operations and the upkeep of your café. Continuous operation and active use of the space are required to help maintain a vibrant and welcoming downtown environment.

If your establishment serves alcohol, ensure compliance with all TABC requirements.

In the event that a tenant vacates or abandons their space, they must refer to and follow the City's application for vacancy requirements, which outline expectations for maintenance, appearance, and interim use during periods of inactivity.

Definitions

Bistro Space

Less than 6' of ROW space adjacent to the face of building that can be used for outdoor dining in agreement with the HDMD.

Cafe Space

More than 6' of ROW space adjacent to face of building that can be used for outdoor dining in agreement with the HDMD.

Clear Zone

An area that must remain free of obstructions to allow people to move through easily and stay visible to vehicles, other pedestrians, and METRO operators.

DTH+

Parent organization made up of Central Houston, Inc., Houston Downtown Management District (HDMD), and the Downtown Redevelopment Authority (DRA).

DRA

The Downtown Redevelopment Authority promotes development within the Tax Increment Zone (TIRZ) #3 zone of Houston (areas of downtown and along Buffalo Bayou).

Furnishings/Site Elements

Free-standing, non-mounted, non-structural furniture that does not require a permit (ie. table, chairs, umbrella).

Guideline

Best practices recommendation, often descriptive, that helps improve the quality and feel of the district.

Loose Furniture

Outdoor furniture that is not fixed to the ground and can be moved within a cafe space.

Main Street Promenade

Parent project of the Design Guidelines that will transform Main Street into a safe and vibrant pedestrian public realm.

Outdoor Room

ROW space not adjacent to the face of a building that can be used for outdoor dining in agreement with the HDMD.

Path of Travel

A clear, accessible pathway free of both vertical and horizontal obstructions, providing safe passage along the sidewalk and direct access to adjacent properties.

Placemaking

An element that enforces a sense of place often tied to the local community.

Public Right-of-Way

The public right-of-way (ROW) is a boundary owned by a municipality that is designated for public use. This often entails a roadway, the adjacent sidewalk and amenities.

Shade Structure

A shade structure is a built element designed to provide protection from the sun. Along the promenade, shade structures installed by the DRA serve both as placemaking features and to offer relief from the heat.

Standard

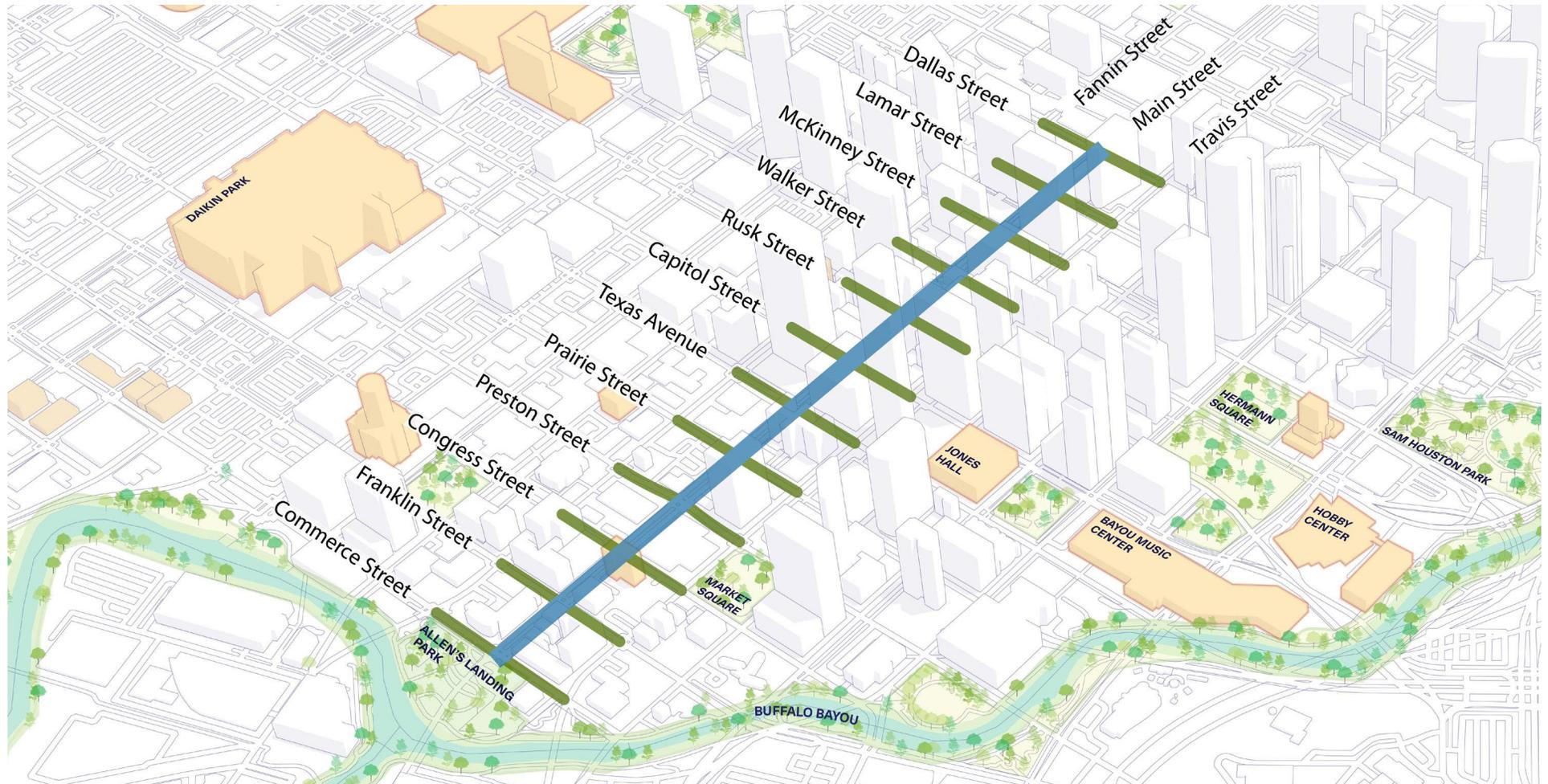
Mandatory design requirement that ensures a level of quality, character and safety for a designated area.

TABC

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission is the agency that oversees and issues permits for serving alcoholic beverages.

Area of Focus

The map below depicts the district boundaries for the Main Street Sidewalk Standards and Guidelines. The Main Street promenade and side streets highlighted below clarify the jurisdictional area whereby sidewalk standards and guidelines contained within this document apply. The promenade is designated as a park like right-of-way managed by the HDMD. Although the side streets are not managed as extensively as the promenade, HDMD issues sidewalk permits along these corridors as well. This is to ensure visual cohesion and connection between the promenade and its adjacent side streets.



■ Main Street Promenade

■ Supporting Side Streets



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GENERAL RULES

This section outlines the essential requirements for outdoor dining in Downtown Houston. Rules are intended to ensure safety, accessibility and visual consistency across all dining areas. Each rule balances private use with the needs of pedestrians and the broader community to achieve a high-functioning, high-quality public realm. Compliance with these guidelines are required for approval and ongoing operation of outdoor dining spaces.

PATH OF TRAVEL

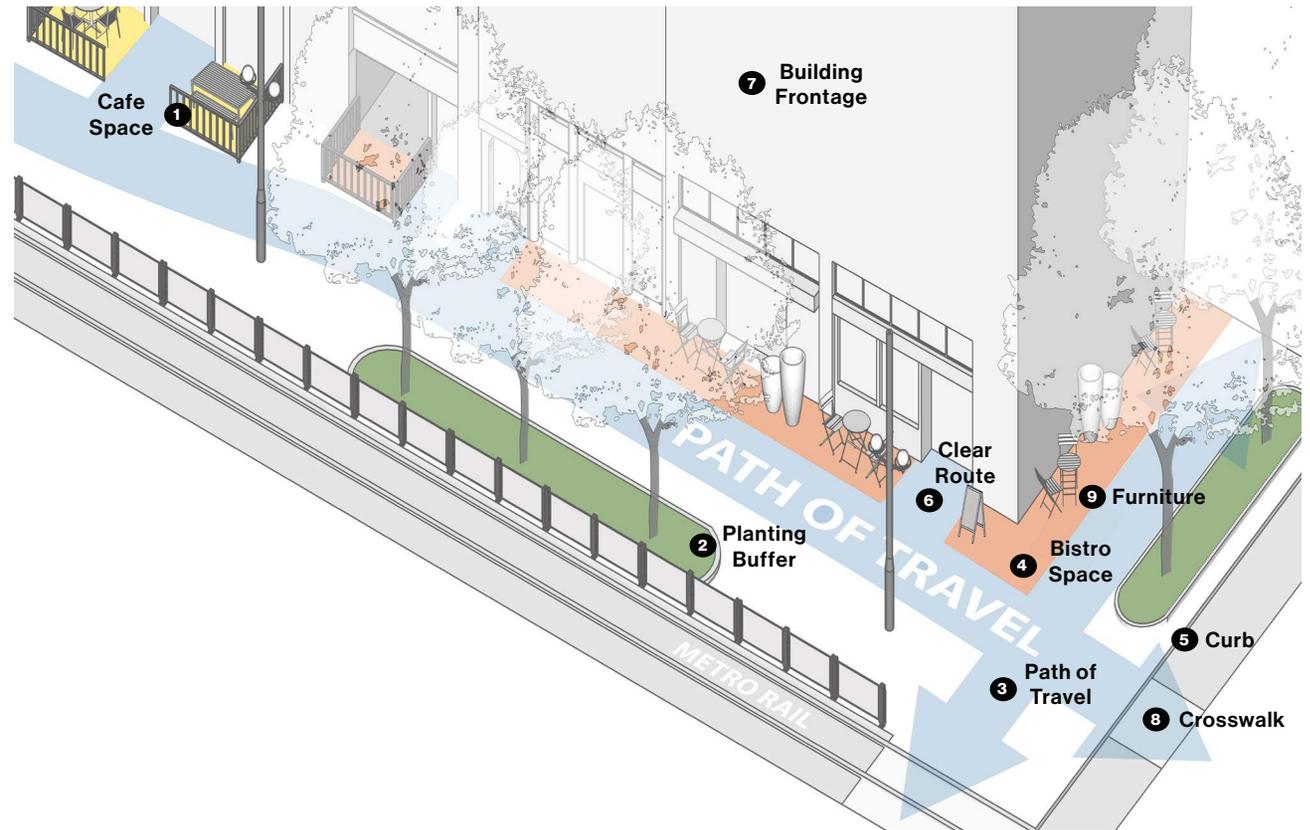
Identify the clear routes to the building entry and within the outdoor dining space.

Purpose:

Maintain a clear and continuous walkway that ensures safe and comfortable passage for all users through the space identified here. It should remain free of obstructions such as furniture, landscaping, electrical cords or other features to ensure accessibility for all users, including those with disabilities. This path often connects key destinations, making smooth pedestrian flow essential throughout the promenade.

Main Street: Maintain 8' to 10' width

Side Streets: Maintain 8' width



1 Cafe Space

6' or more of ROW space adjacent to face of building that can be used for outdoor dining or seating in agreement with HDMD

2 Planting Buffer

A landscape strip that separates walkways from streets or light rail, enhancing safety, comfort and visual appeal for pedestrians.

3 Path of Travel

Designated pathway unobstructed by vertical objects (ie. hydrants, poles, trees, furnishings). This pathway will not always be in a straight line. It occasionally jogs between pocked of private spaces and public buffers (refer to the Tenant Encroachment Map in the appendix).

4 Bistro Space

5' or less of ROW space adjacent to face of building that can be used for outdoor dining or seating in agreement with HDMD

5 Curb

The edge of sidewalk.

6 Clear Route to Building

Unobstructed path towards building entries.

7 Building Frontage

The ground level facade of buildings that face the promenade or sidewalk.

8 Crosswalk

Designated crossing across the road connected to the path of travel.

9 Furniture

Outdoor cafe elements such as tables, chairs, umbrellas or pots owned and maintained by the adjacent business.

ACCESSIBILITY

Identify the accessible requirements within the outdoor dining space.

Purpose:

Ensures that all users, including those with mobility challenges, can comfortably access seating and amenities. Dining layouts should maintain a clear accessible route that connects to the promenade path of travel, with level surfaces and barrier free entry points. This thoughtful integration supports an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere for all users.

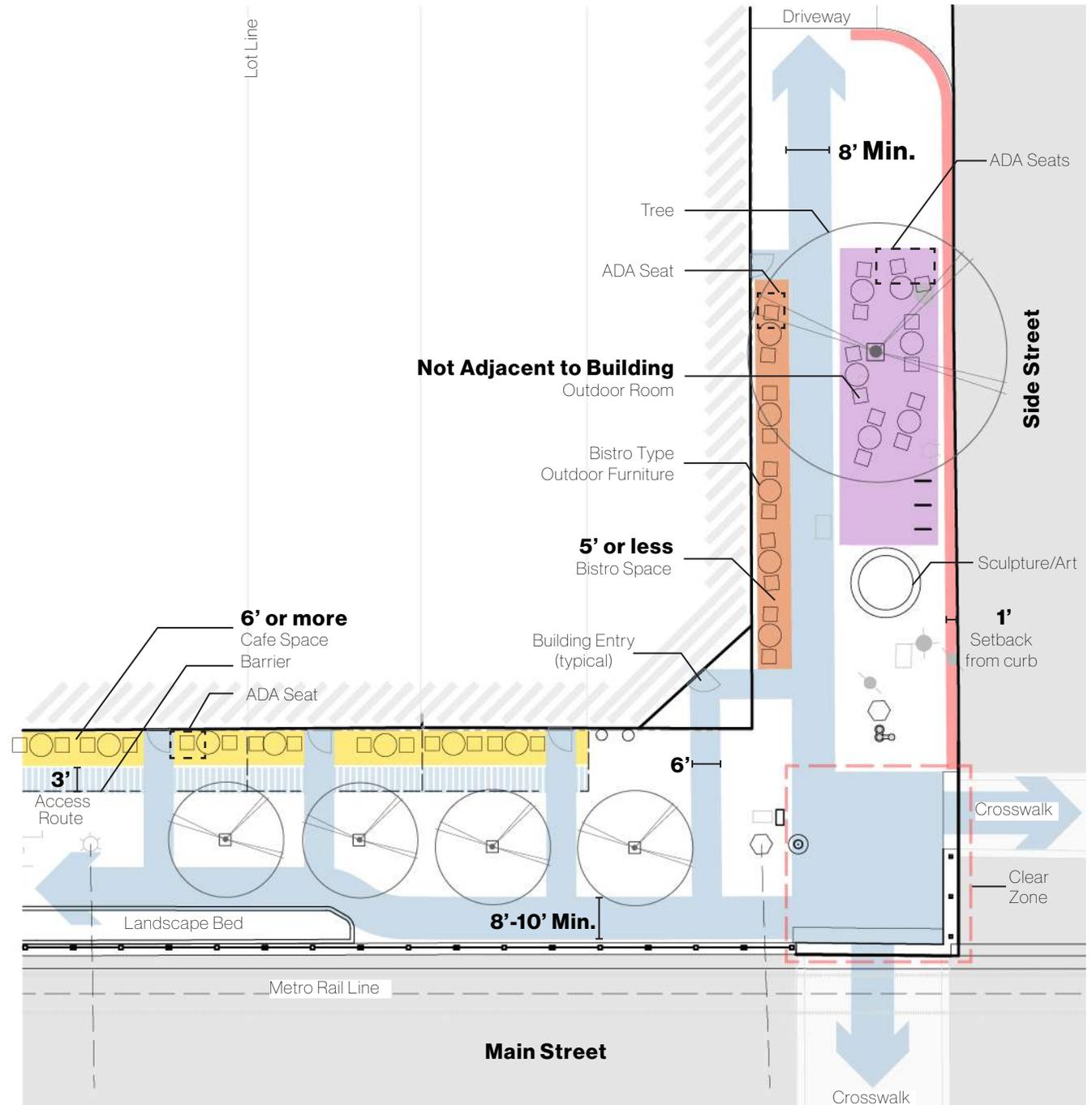
All Streets:

Maintain a minimum width of 5' to building entries.

20% of seating must be accessible.

Legend

 Path of Travel



UTILITY CLEARANCES

Identify what buffers & clearances need to be maintained.

Clear Zone

Views at driveways and crosswalks are to be left clear.

Utilities

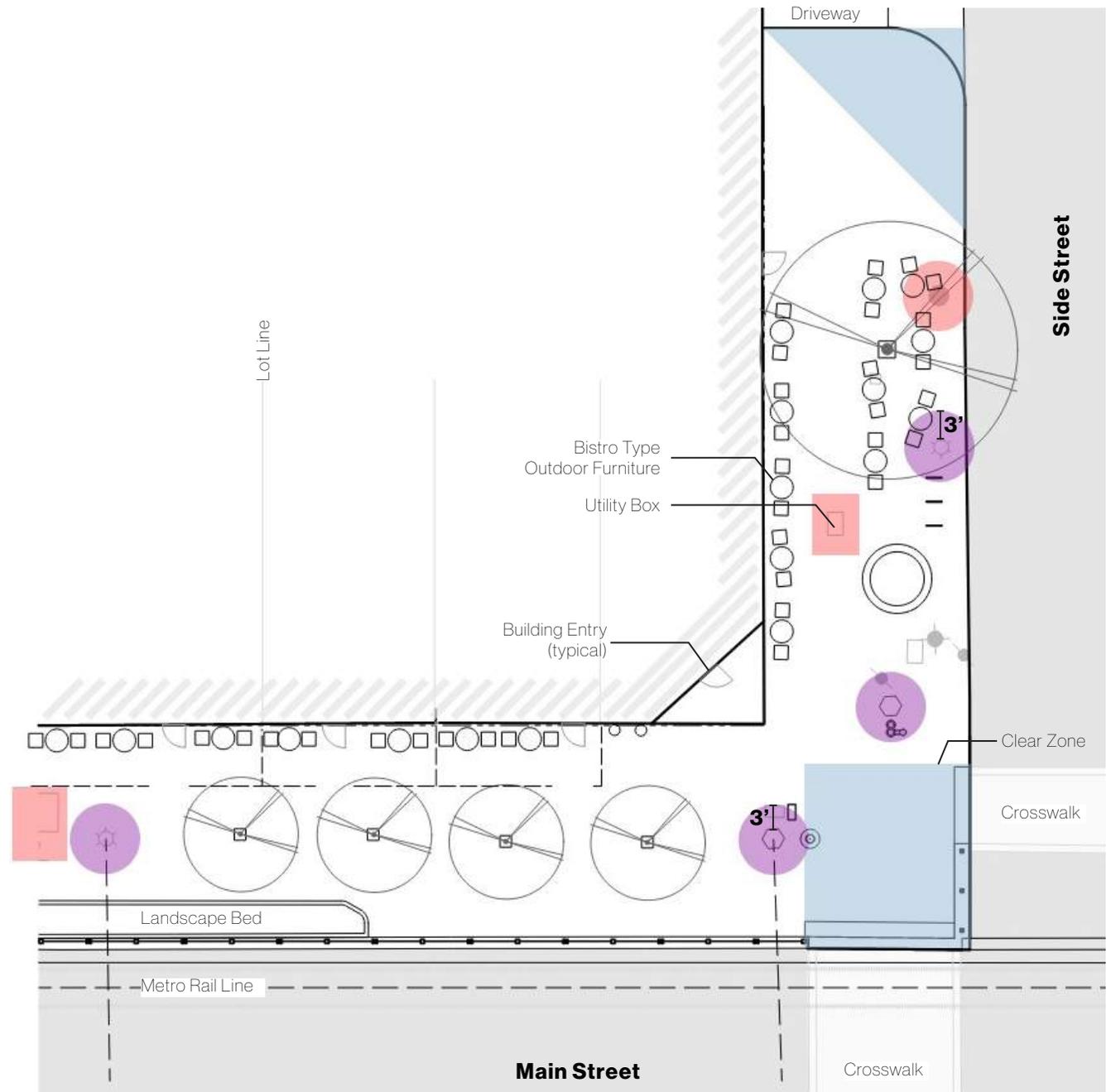
Keep a 3-foot clear area around utility boxes and manholes, and a 5-foot clear area around fire hydrants. No permanent elements can obstruct fire department connections or fire lanes. Any dining items placed on or near utilities must be easy to move.

Vertical Elements

A 3' access area is to be maintained around vertical elements (light pole, canopy pole, etc.).

Legend

-  Sight Triangle Clearance
-  Utility Clearance
-  Vertical Element Clearance



AMENITY CLEARANCES

Identify what buffers & clearances need to be maintained.

Fixed Amenities

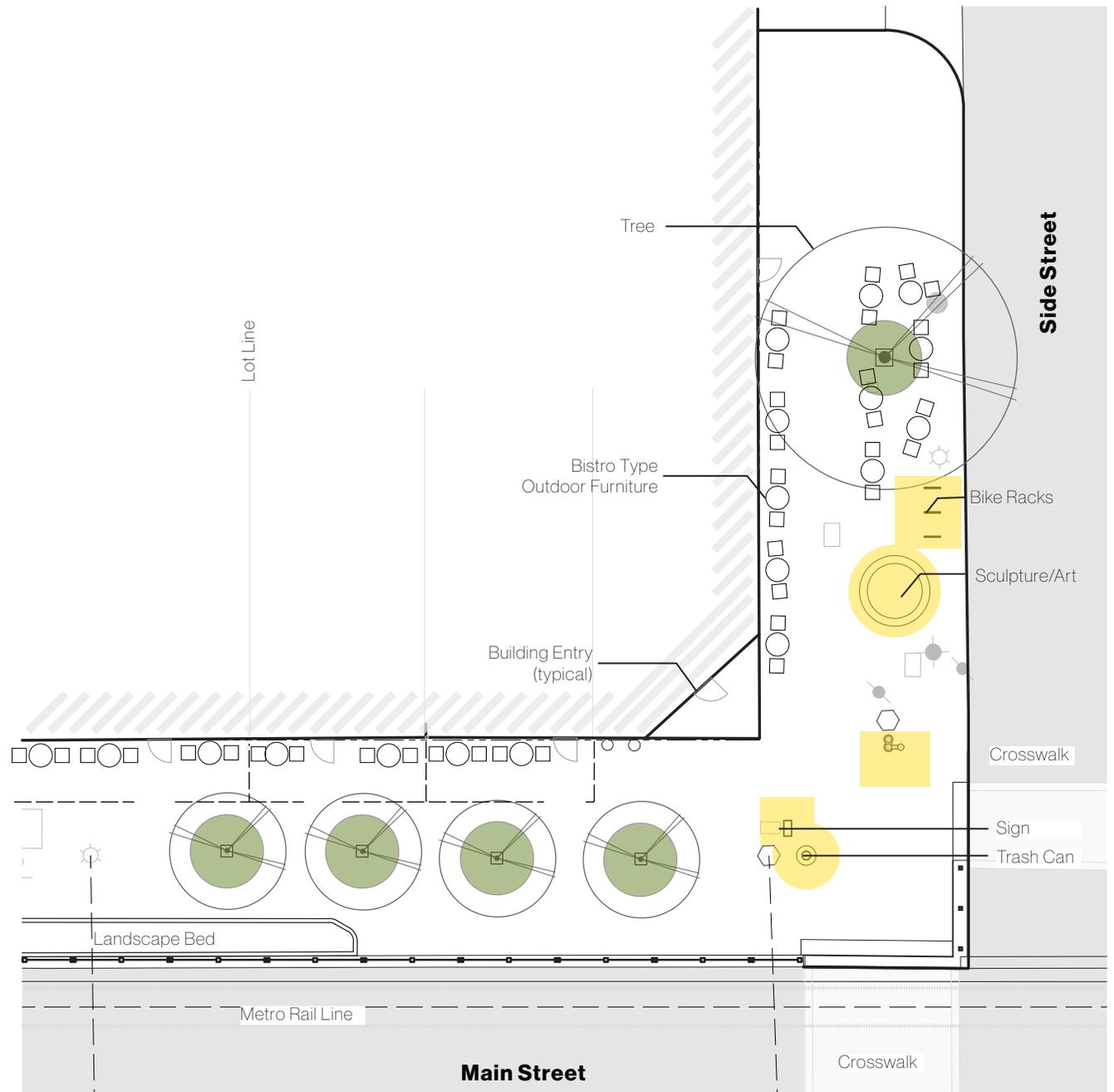
A 3' access area is to be maintained around fixed, public amenities (trash can, water fountain, bike rack, art sculpture, etc.)

Trees

Permanent elements may not be installed within 3' of the base of a tree. It is appropriate to place loose furnishings adjacent to trees to take advantage of the provided shade.

Legend

- Fixed Amenities Clearance
- Tree Clearance



FIRE LANE

Identify what buffers & clearances need to be maintained.

Clear Zone

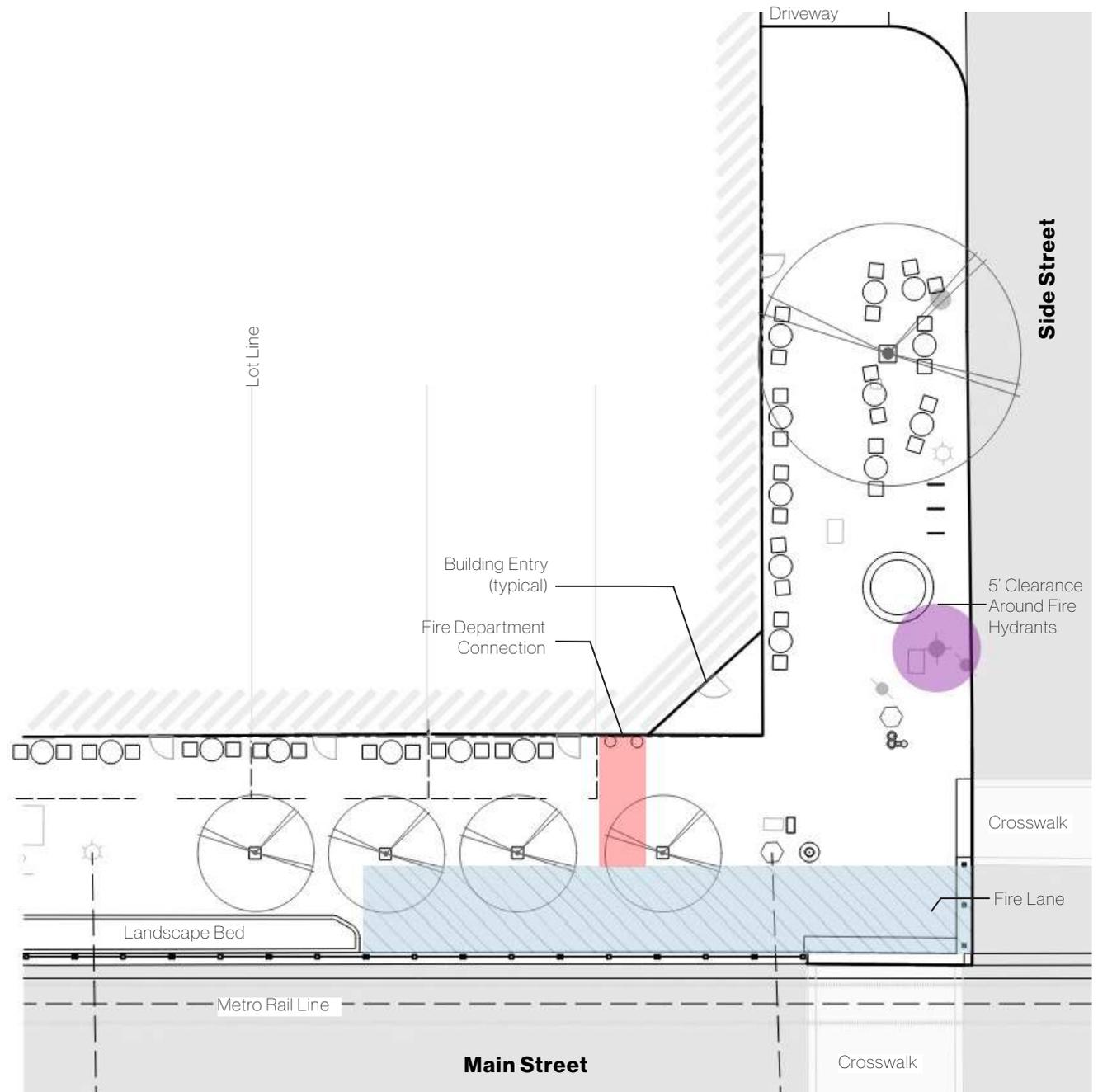
Fire lanes should be free and clear of furniture, structures or site elements. Addresses to buildings should be visible and unobstructed. Refer to the Tenant Encroachment exhibit within the appendices for each fire lane location.

Utilities

Maintain a clear route to the fire department connection at each building. Maintain a 5' clearance around all fire hydrants.

Legend

-  Fire Lane
-  Fire Department Connection
-  5' Clearance



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3

GUIDELINES

The following guidelines provide essential design direction for creating outdoor dining areas that are functional, attractive, and integrated with the downtown streetscape. They offer best practices for layout, furniture design and maintenance to ensure consistency and quality with the Main Street Promenade vision and intent. These guidelines are flexible to support a range of dining experiences, while ensuring safety, accessibility, and visual consistency. The goal is to help create a vibrant, welcoming environment that benefits both tenants along Main Street and visitors.

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TYPES OF OUTDOOR DINING SPACES

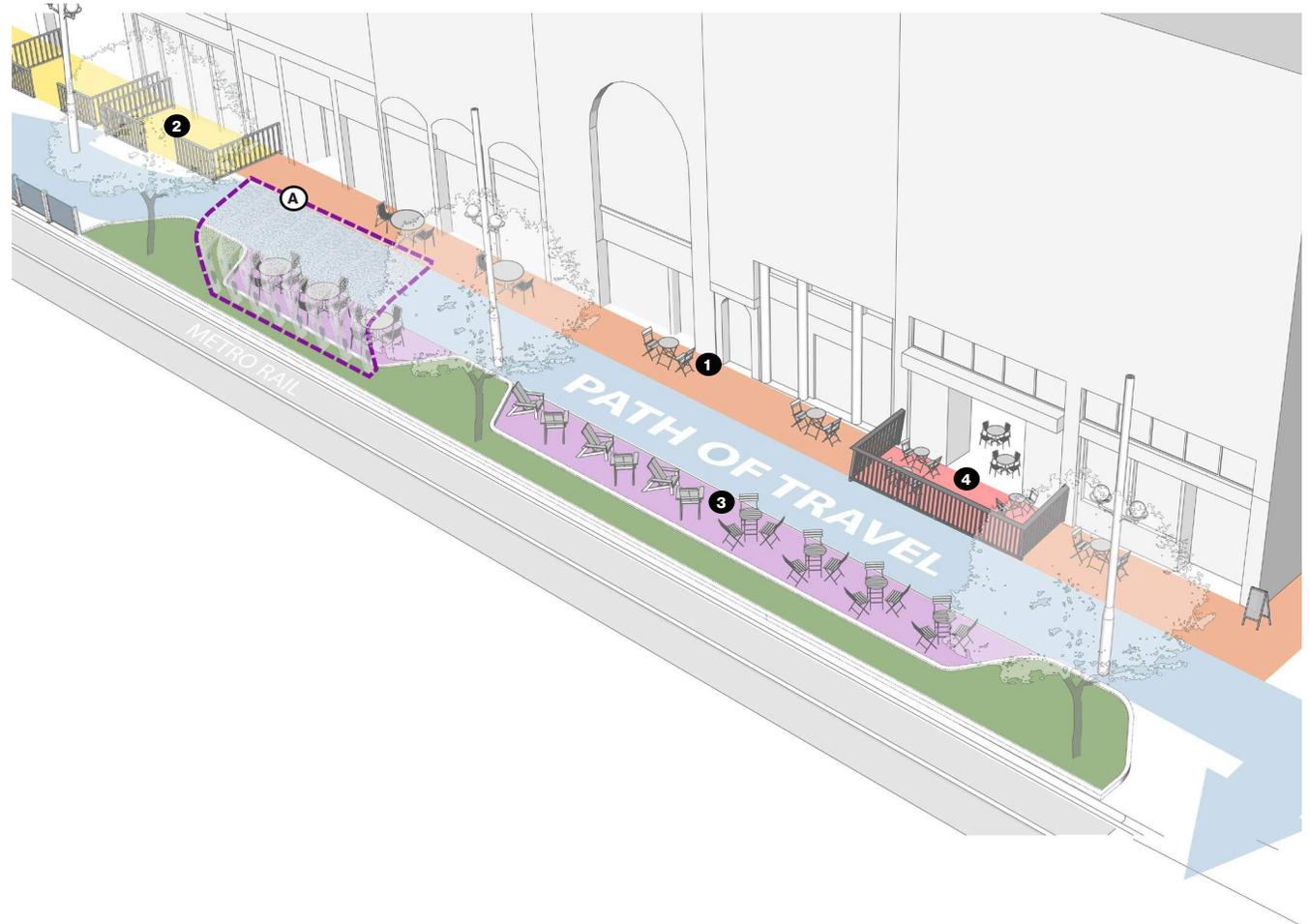
There are four types of outdoor dining spaces--Bistro, Cafe, Outdoor Room and Interior Extension.

Sidewalk conditions and layouts vary throughout the Promenade, making certain types of outdoor dining more suitable for specific areas.

When selecting a dining type, consider the unique characteristics of your location—such as available space and proximity to adjacent public property—while ensuring compliance with accessibility standards and maintaining the required pedestrian path of travel and emergency access.

Tenants may use the space corresponding to their building frontage. They may consider utilizing one dining type or other alternative configurations (refer to page 24).

Tenants may apply and maintain a combination of more than one type of dining space.



1 Bistro Space
5' or less of ROW space adjacent to the face of building that can be used for outdoor dining in agreement with the HDMD.

2 Cafe Space
6' or more of ROW space adjacent to face of building that can be used for outdoor dining in agreement with the HDMD.

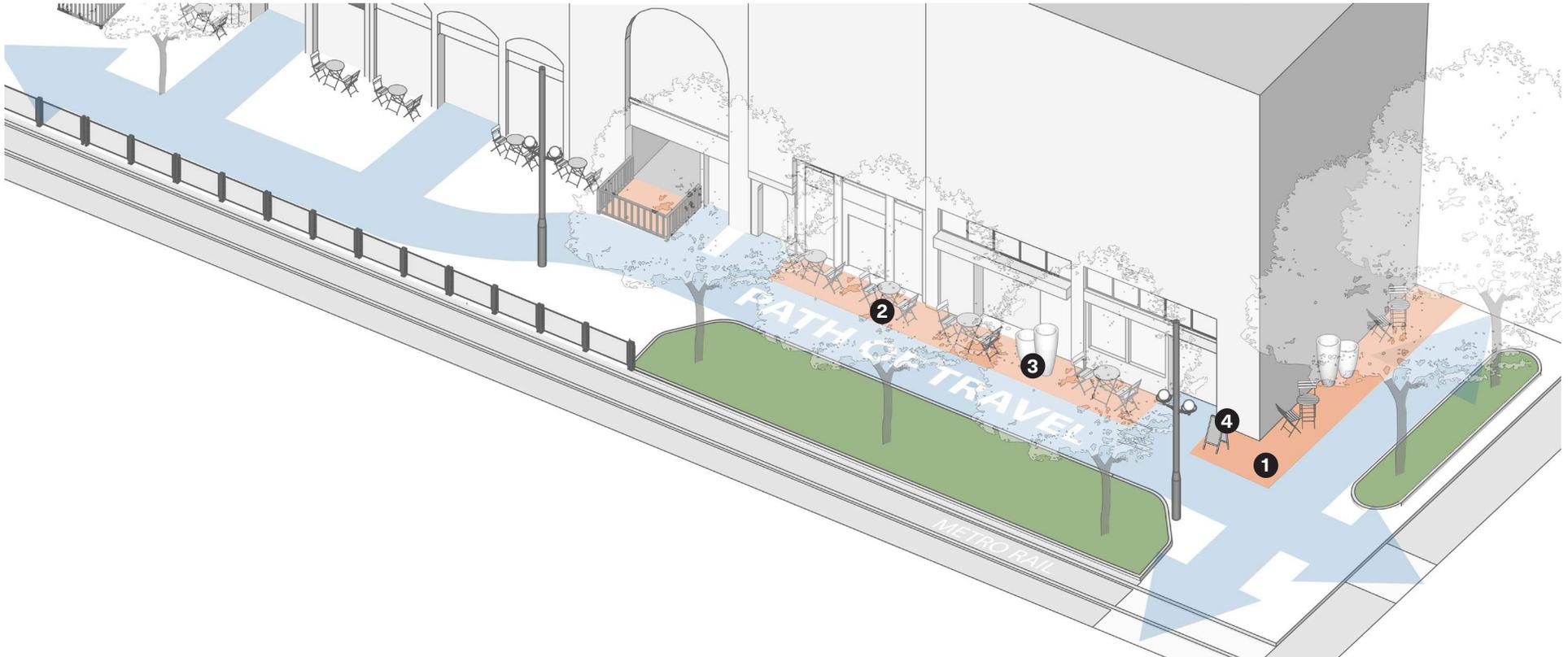
3 Outdoor Room
ROW space not adjacent to the face of a building that can be used for outdoor dining in agreement with the HDMD.

A Shade Structure
Shade structures strategically placed along the promenade. These are the owned and maintained by HDMD.

4 Interior Extension
ROW space adjacent to the face of a building that allows a direct connection from the interior of the building into the exterior that can be used for outdoor dining in agreement with the HDMD.

Type 1: Bistro

Less than 6' of ROW space adjacent to the face of building that can be used for outdoor dining in agreement with the HDMD.



FEATURED ELEMENTS

1 Less than 6' = no fixed barrier

When the space adjacent to the building is less than 6' due to the path of travel, a fixed barrier is not allowed due to spacing constraints. A temporary barrier can be considered but must be approved.

2 Bistro Seating

Appropriately sized tables and chairs are allowable. These cannot block the path of travel or entry to the building.

3 Planters

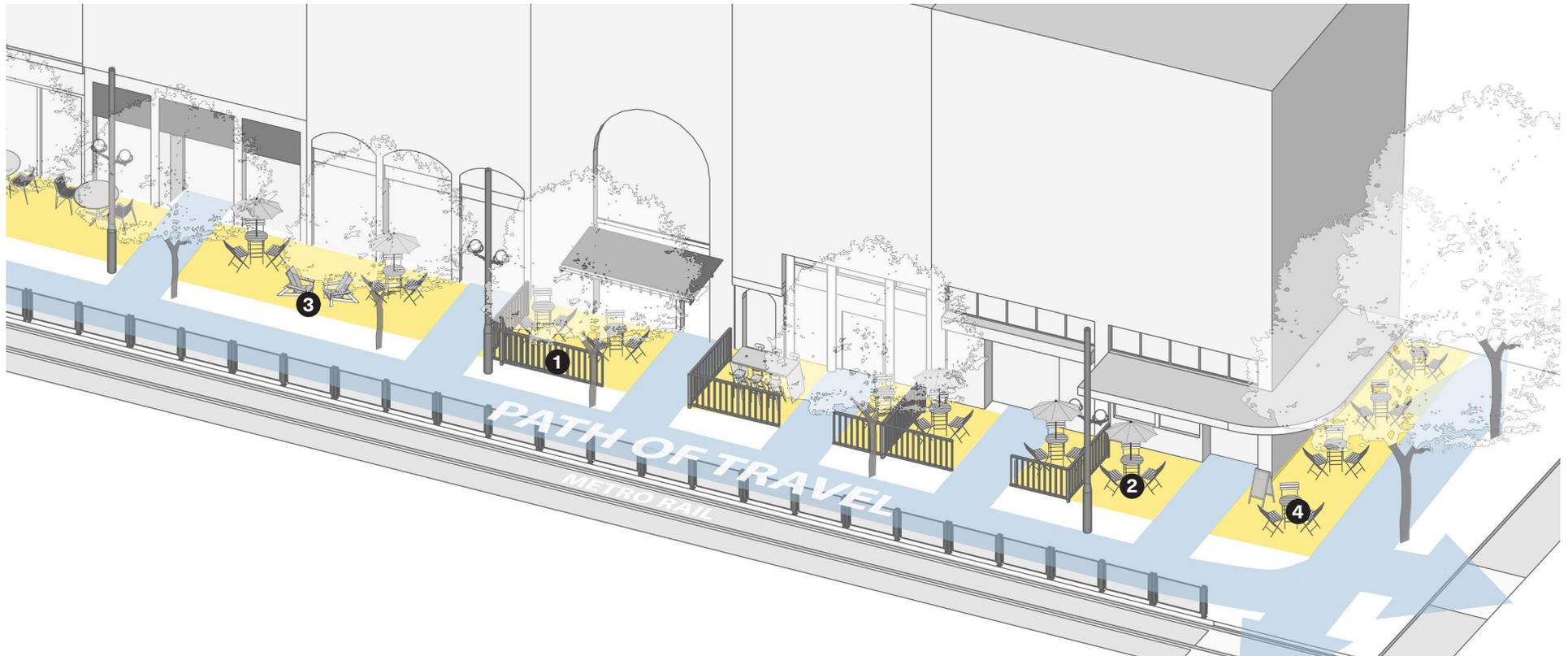
Planter pots are allowable within a bistro space to enhance the space and define edges.

4 Other loose furniture

Other loose furniture is allowable like umbrellas, heating torches, fans, and movable signage, as long as the path of travel is maintained.

Type 2: Cafe

6' or more of ROW space adjacent to face of building that can be used for outdoor dining in agreement with the HDMD.



FEATURED ELEMENTS

- 1 6' or more = allowed barrier**
With 6'+ of seating space, a barrier is allowed if required/wanted.

Barriers, but not limited to, can be considered to meet TABC requirements.

- 2 Cafe Seating**
Appropriately sized tables and chairs are allowed. These cannot block the path of travel or entry to the building.

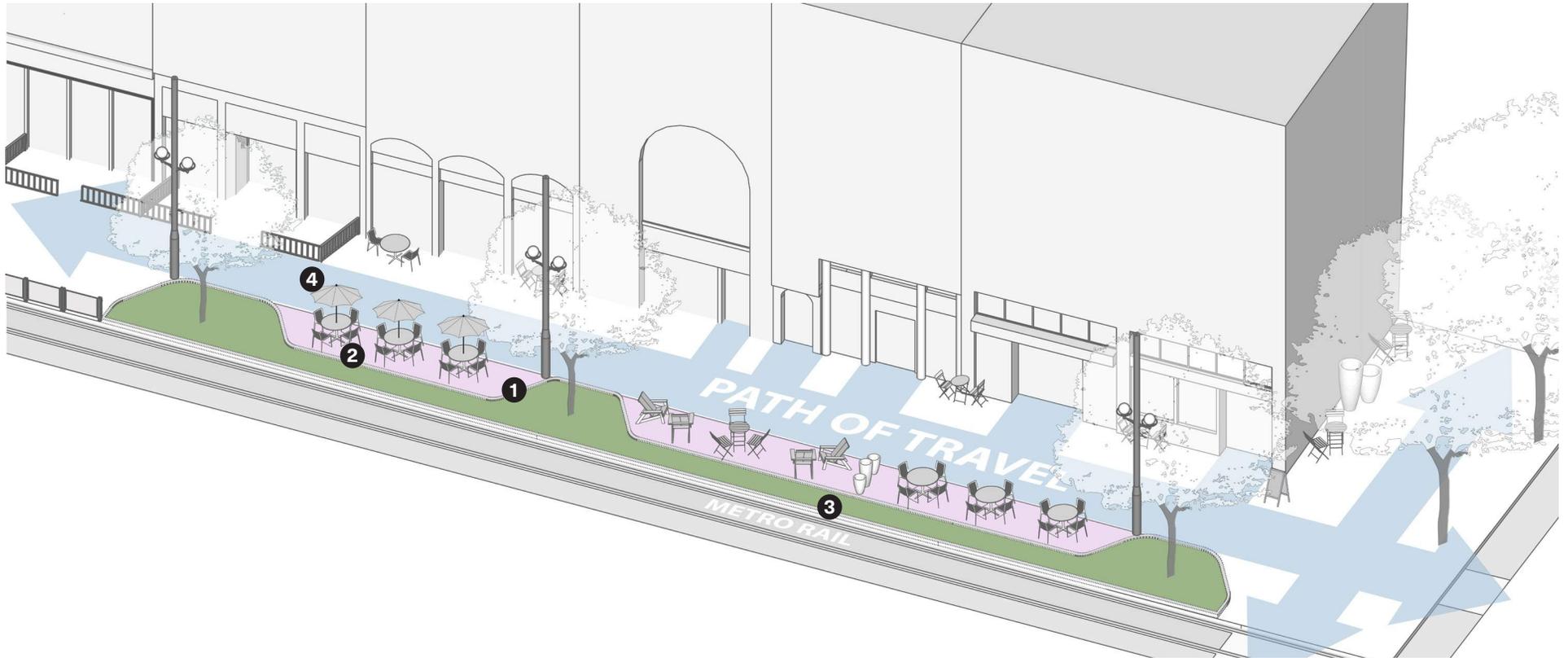
- 3 Lounge Furniture**
With 6'+ of seating space, lounge furniture is allowed as long as access is maintained.

- 4 Other loose furniture**
Other loose furniture is allowable like umbrellas and movable signage, as long as the path of travel is maintained.

*refer to page 30 for further explanation of the furniture types.

Type 3: Outdoor Room

ROW space not adjacent to the face of a building that can be used for outdoor dining in agreement with the HDMD.



FEATURED ELEMENTS

1 Not adjacent to building = no barrier

Due to outdoor rooms not being adjacent to building, a barrier is not allowed to maximize access and pedestrian flow.

2 Outdoor Room Seating

Appropriately sized tables and chairs are allowable. These cannot block the path of travel or entry to the building.

3 Planters

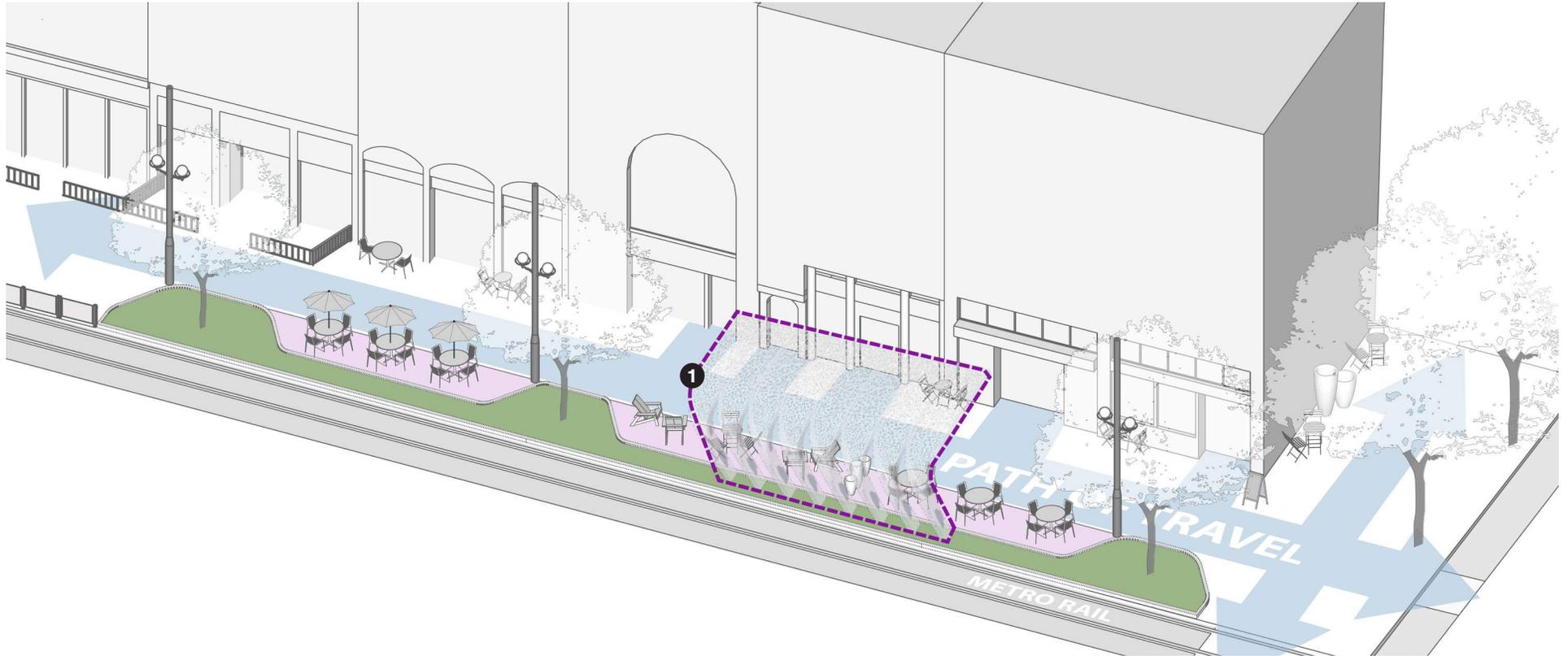
Planter pots are allowable within an outdoor to enhance the space and define edges.

4 Other loose furniture

Other loose furniture is allowable like umbrellas and movable signage, as long as the path of travel is maintained.

Outdoor Room with Shade Structures

Along Main Street, DTH+ has provided shade structures to create a vibrant and cohesive pedestrian corridor. These are associated with outdoor rooms that tenants can occupy upon agreement with the HDMD.



CONSIDERATIONS

1 Shade Structure
To enhance the promenade and create a sense of cohesion, there are shade structures strategically placed along the promenade. These are the owned and maintained by HDMD.

Maintenance
It is the responsibility of HDMD to maintain the shade structures.

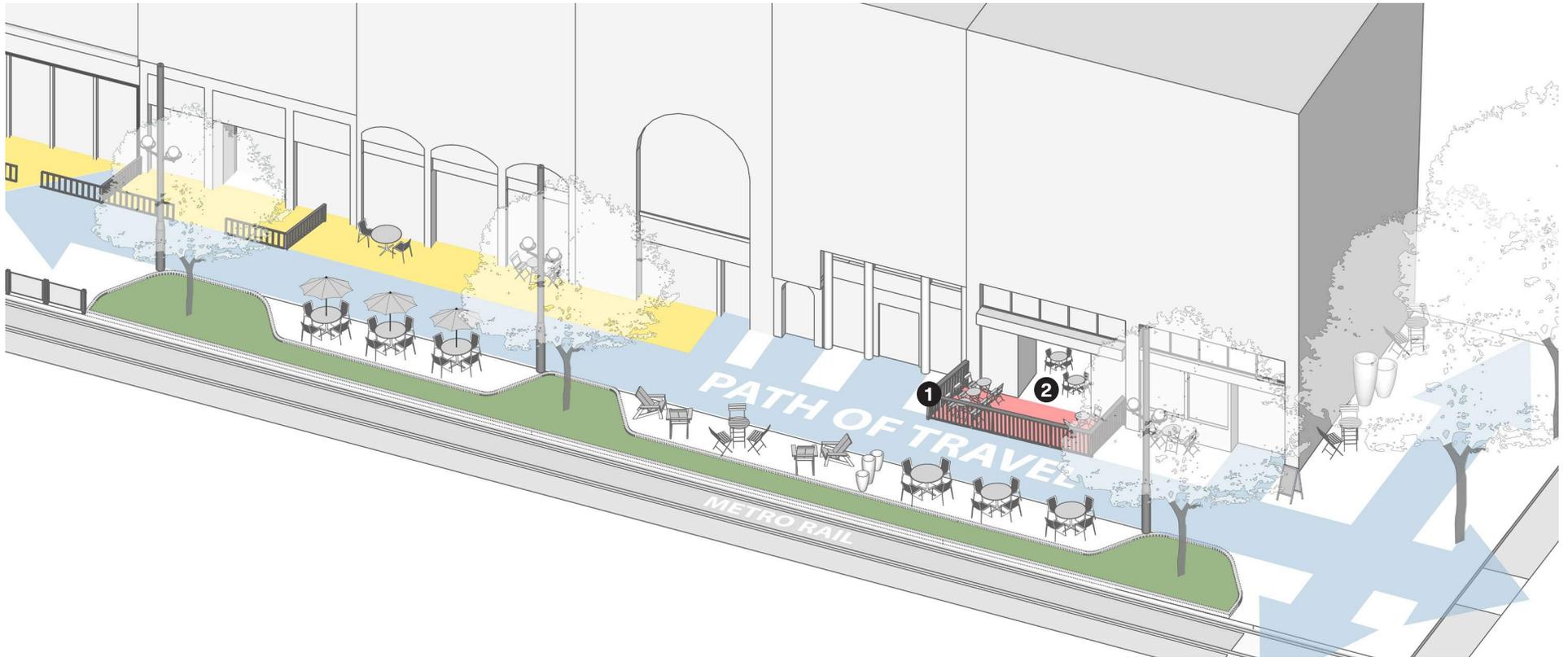
Outdoor Room Elements
A shade structure does not change the allowed elements associated with an outdoor room.

Not Allowed
Any kind of attachment or adjustment to the shade structure is not allowed by the tenant.

Elements, such as electrical cords or water hose, cannot cross the path of travel.

Type 4: Interior Extension

ROW space adjacent to the face of a building that allows a direct connection from the interior of the building into the exterior that can be used for outdoor dining in agreement with the HDMD.



FEATURED ELEMENTS

- 1 6' or more = allowed barrier**
With 6'+ of seating space, a barrier is required as this area is an extension of the interior area. Design of railing must be code-compliant for emergency egress.

Barriers should also meet TABC requirements.

- 2 Cafe & Lounge Seating**
Appropriately sized tables and chairs are allowed. These cannot block the path of travel or entry to the building.

Other loose furniture
Other loose furniture is allowable like umbrellas and movable signage, as long as an accessible route is maintained within the cafe area.

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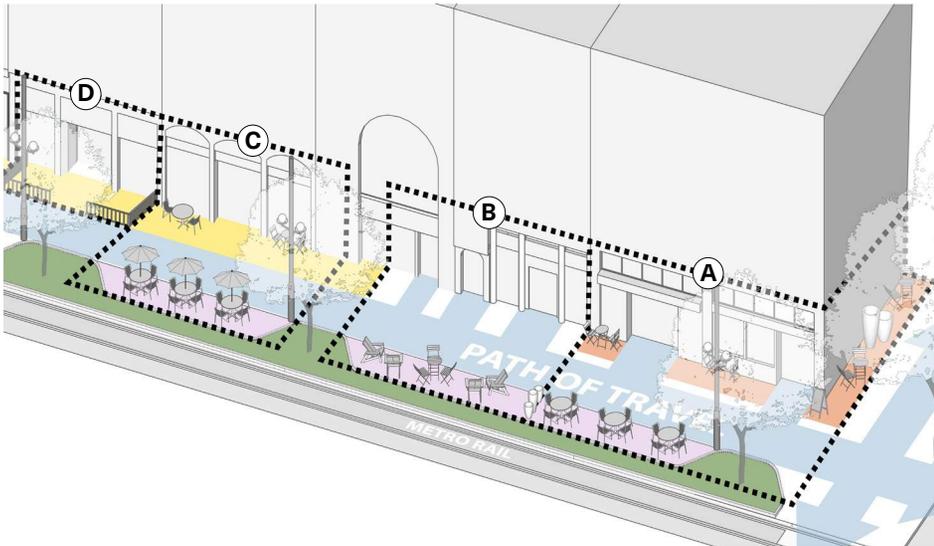
Outdoor Dining - Alternative Configurations

The following configurations, but not limited to, are different options available to tenants under agreement with the HDMD. These configurations assume that accessibility standards, the path of travel and emergency access are maintained.

1 Individual Occupation

Each tenant is occupying a different combination of outdoor dining typologies as the site conditions are amenable to them.

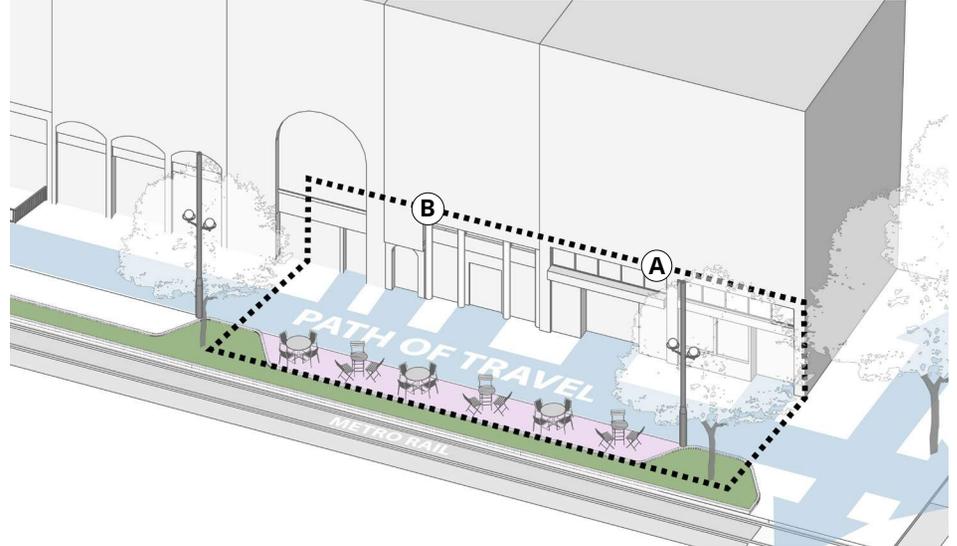
Tenant A = outdoor room + bistro that wraps, Tenant B = outdoor room only,
Tenant C = outdoor room + bistro, tenant d = cafe only



2 Outdoor Room: Shared Occupation

At outdoor rooms, tenants can consider sharing the space under agreement with HDMD and the adjacent tenant.

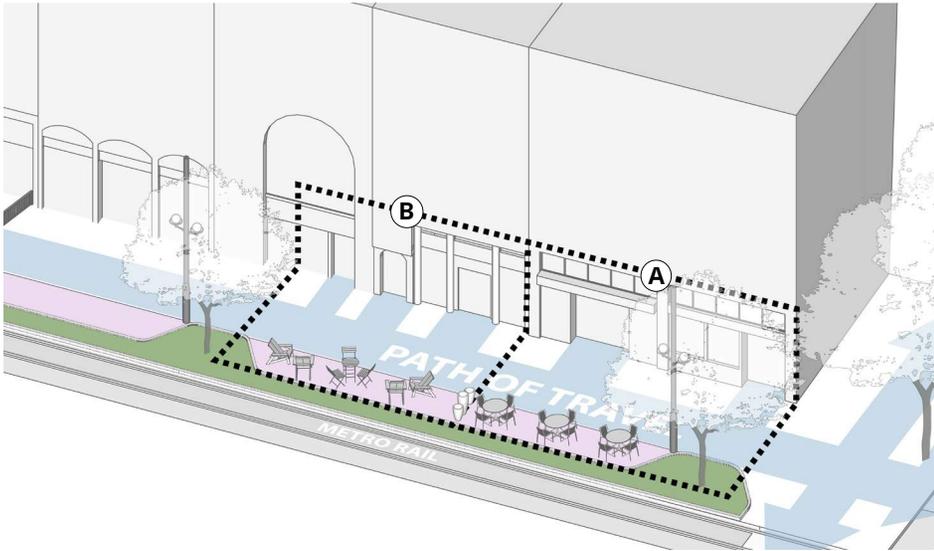
Tenant A & B share the outdoor room



3 Outdoor Room: Separate Occupation

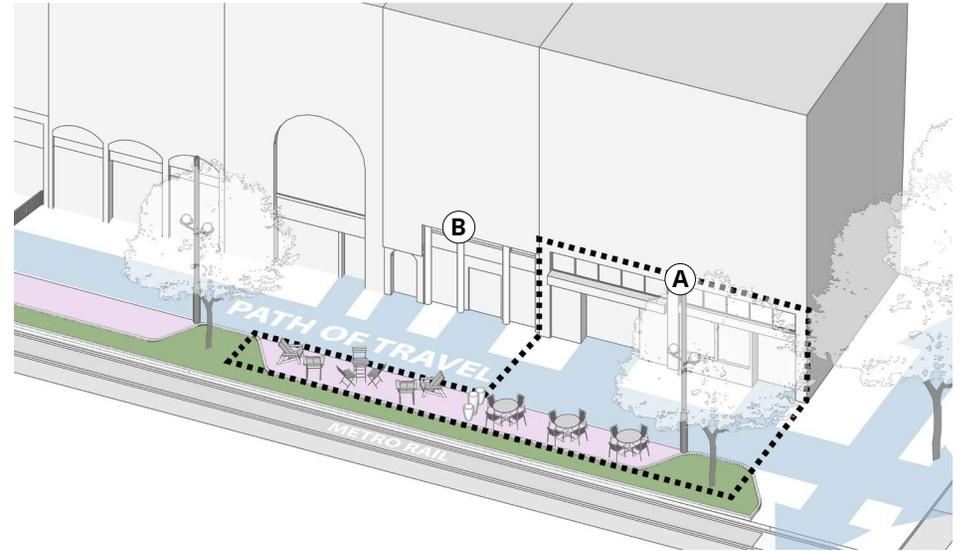
At outdoor rooms, tenants can consider just utilizing the space corresponding to their frontage.

Tenant A & B separate the outdoor room with planters



4 Outdoor Room: Single Tenant Occupation

In the case that the adjacent tenant (tenant B) doesn't want to occupy the outdoor room corresponding to their building frontage, tenant A may occupy all of the outdoor room (under agreement with HDMD and the adjacent tenant).



SITE ELEMENTS

Outdoor dining furnishings are required to comply with ADA and TABC requirements for design, safety and accessibility. Refer to the General Rules.

Outdoor dining areas along the pedestrian promenade may include a variety of furniture such as tables, chairs, benches, umbrellas, and movable planters, all of which must adhere to the following rules. These rules aim to provide a level of quality and functionality throughout the life of the site element to enrich the character and quality of service of the area.

Tenants are responsible for confirming additional permits required for improvements not listed in these guidelines (refer to appendix for resources).

Elements not allowed under the Outdoor Dining Design Guidelines include:

- permanent or fixed signage
- awnings
- elements attached to building
- sofas
- televisions
- generators
- open flame (fire pits, candles)
- changes to the sidewalk materials

1 All Elements

Durability: Made of robust, high-quality materials to withstand daily wear; powder-coated steel, treated wood or similar durable materials. Refer to appendix for approved vendors.

Maintenance: All surfaces and finishes must be easy to clean and maintain. Tenants are responsible for regular cleaning, upkeep, and necessary repairs to preserve material integrity, ensure safety, and maintain the site's appearance.

After Hours & Weather: Tenants are responsible for care of movable elements when business is not open. Tenants are required to tether or store movable elements during storm events and declarations of emergency.

Vertical Clearance: All elements must be kept clear of the MetroRail's energized wires, if applicable.

Sight Lines: Clear site lines must be maintained along pedestrian promenade and adjacent cafe spaces. Elements such as umbrellas, planters and partitions must be placed to preserve visibility for pedestrian flow, wayfinding and safety to ensure activity does not create visual barriers.



2 Dining Table & Chairs

Dimensions: Table must be 30 inches or less to ensure adequate space.

Bistro seating is limited to two chairs per table, while Cafe seating can expand to four chairs per table.

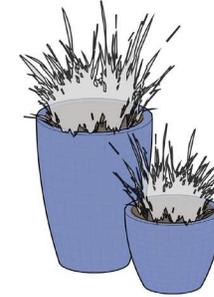
While table heights and seating types may vary, 20% of all site furnishings shall be accessible.



3 Lounge Table & Chairs

Dimensions: Table must be 30 inches or less to ensure adequate space.

ADA: 20% of seats shall be accessible.



4 Planter Pots

Material: No flimsy plastic or easily breakable pots.

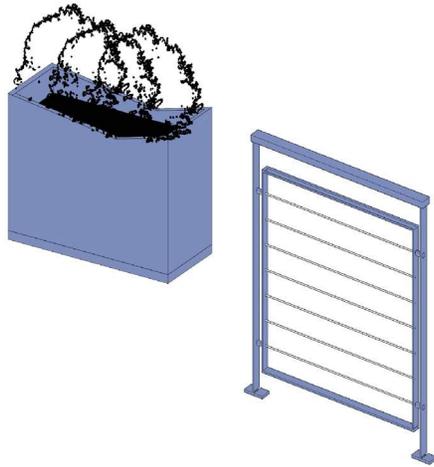
Appearance: Must be clean, professionally made, and visually consistent with the cafe's branding.

Color: Neutral or natural tones are preferred. Bright or reflective finishes must be approved.

Size: Planters must be large enough to support healthy plant growth and stable enough to prevent tipping. Minimum dimensions: 18" height, 16" diameter (or equivalent).

Drainage: Planters must have proper drainage to prevent water overflow onto the sidewalk.

Plant Material: Only live, healthy plants are allowed. Artificial plants are not allowed. Native plants are preferred. They must be regularly water, pruned and replaced as needed.



5 Barrier or Railing

Dimensions: Barriers must not obstruct pedestrian flow or emergency access. They shall not exceed a height of 42 inches or be shorter than 18 inches. It must have a 5' min entrance.

Stability: All units must be freestanding but stable, with weighted bases to prevent tipping in high traffic or windy conditions.

Design: Present a cohesive, visually appealing appearance that complements the cafe's identity without advertising or signage.

TABC: A barrier may be considered to meet TABC

requirements to better delineate permitted vs. non-permitted spaces. These guidelines encourage a physical marker of some kind. Confirming and meeting TABC requirements is the responsibility of the tenant. HDMD retains the right to approve site elements implemented as a result of TABC requirements.



6 Umbrellas

Durability: Must be made from commercial-grade, weather-resistant materials, such as UV-protected fabric and rust-resistant frames, to withstand wind, sun, and frequent use.

Stability: Must be securely anchored using weighted bases or approved mounting systems to prevent tipping or movement in moderate winds.

Size & Clearance: Umbrellas should be proportionate to the seating area and provide adequate clearance for pedestrian flow and visibility, typically with a minimum 8-foot clearance from ground to canopy edge. Umbrellas can not be

placed within the path of travel and not hang over the Metro line.

Design & Color: Umbrella colors and designs must be coordinated with café aesthetics. Logos or branding are allowed only if permitted by local ordinances.

After Hours & Weather: Umbrellas should be closed outside of business hours and removed and stored during inclement weather.



7 Movable Signage

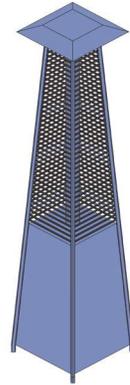
Refer to signage ordinance for type of signage allowed, sizing and additional requirements.

Appearance: Must be clean, professionally made, and visually consistent with the cafe's branding.

Content: The following are allowed: business name, logo, menu items, operation hours, or promotional messages.

The following are not allowed: Obscene, offensive, or unrelated advertising (third-party products or services not offered by the tenant).

Stability: Must be weighted or secured to prevent tipping or movement due to wind or pedestrian traffic.



8 Fans, Misters, and Heaters

Safety: All equipment must comply with local fire, electrical and building codes (UL-listed or equivalent).

Clearance: Must not obstruct pathways and must be stable.

Noise: Equipment must operate quietly and not cause a public nuisance.

Liability: Tenants are responsible for ensuring that all equipment is safely used and does not pose a hazard to the public.

Fans: No gas-powered or industrial fans. Must not blow debris into pedestrian paths or neighboring properties. Must be unplugged, removed or covered during storm events.

Misters: Only low-pressure, commercial-grade water misters are allowed. Must meet health and plumbing codes. Only operated during warm-weather months and during cafe hours.

Heaters: No open-flame heaters, wood-burning devices or devices not certified for outdoor commercial use. Must be stable and set back from combustible materials. Only operated during cold-weather months and during cafe hours. Must not be left unattended when on and must be inspected daily for safe operation. Equipment to be stored indoors or in a secure location when not in use. Warning labels must be visible where applicable.

9 Miscellaneous

Cords: May not cross the path of travel or pose a tripping hazard within the seating area.

Lighting not attached to the building: May be considered but required to undergo approval. Must meet local electrical codes.

All other items not noted in the guidelines are subject to review and approval; e.i. temporary site elements, tents, food stalls, sound system, etc.

Permit Application Process

Applicants must submit a detailed application including site plans, furniture specifications, and proof of compliance with accessibility and safety standards. The application is reviewed by the City of Houston to ensure it meets all design guidelines and local regulations. Once the application passes initial review, a permit fee must be paid before a final decision is granted. The permit may include conditions related to maintenance, hours of operation, and periodic inspections. Approved permits typically require renewal on an annual basis to ensure ongoing compliance with all requirements.

- **Review the Design Guidelines document**
- **Confirm applicable outdoor dining type**
- **Complete Site Plan drawing**
- **Fill out application.**
- **Application review**
- **Provide Revisions as needed**
- **Receive approval**

Required Application Materials

To apply for an Outdoor Dining permit, applicants must provide specific materials that demonstrate compliance with design and accessibility standards. These materials help ensure that proposed sidewalk dining areas are safe, functional, and compatible with the public realm. The following list outlines all required items for a complete application submission.

1. Written Statement

Provide a brief statement including:

- Applicant's name, address, and phone number
- Interest in the property (owner or establishment operator)
- Name of the establishment
- Description of the proposed sidewalk dining area, including:
 - Total square footage
 - Number of tables and seats
 - Percentage of accessible tables

2. Site Photographs

Submit three current photos clearly showing the proposed cafe site, including:

- Building façade (Fire dept connections)
- Utilities (vaults, manholes, fire hydrants)
- Curb area
- Existing streetscape elements near area in front of the building
- If applicable, the landscape area between sidewalk and curb
- Photos should be taken from both directions along the sidewalk

3. Site Plan

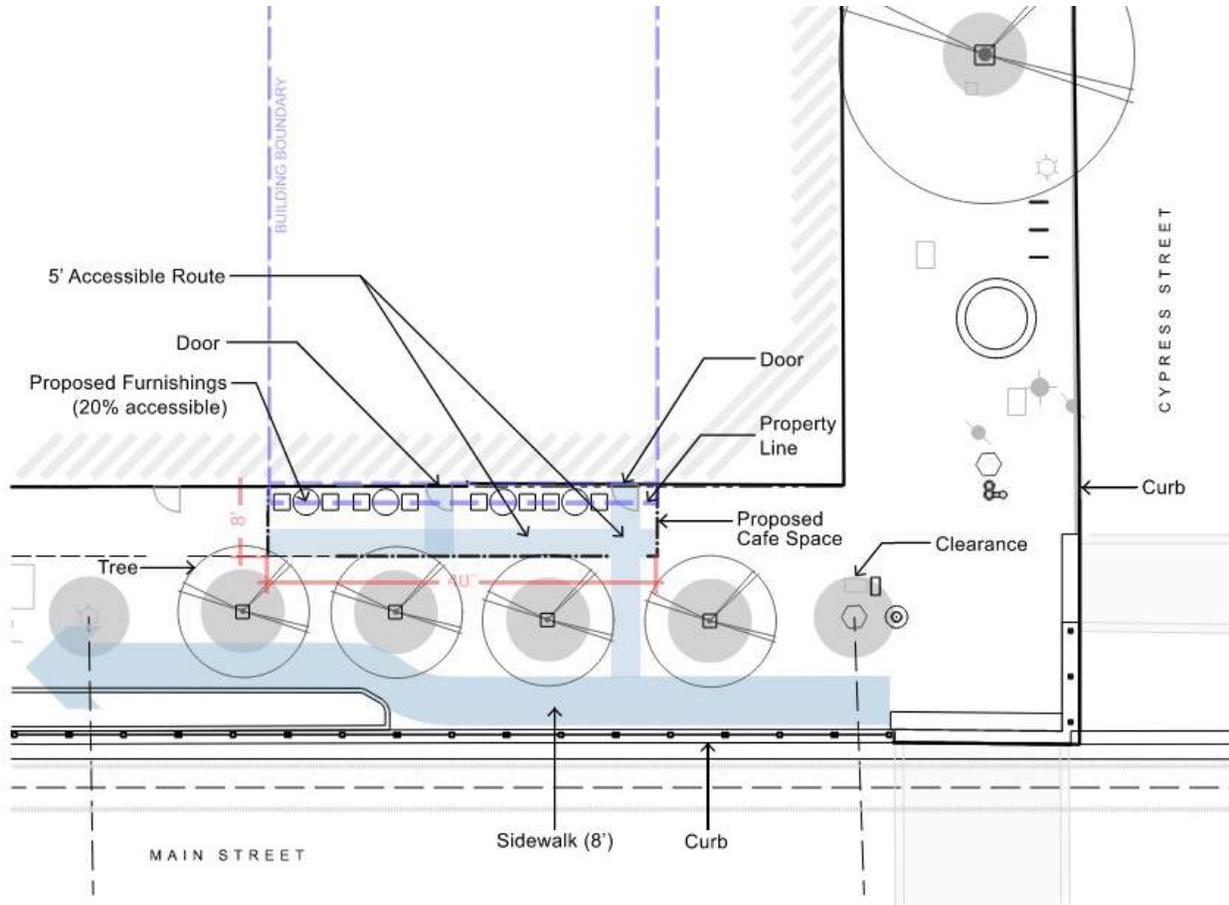
Submit a site plan drawn to scale showing the proposed sidewalk dining space, and meeting all required clear zones.

Plan should include:

- A north arrow, scale and date
- Name and address of applicant
- Boundaries of building associated with outdoor dining area
- Property lines
- Valet or loading zone (if applicable)
- Street names labeled
- Sidewalk and curbs. Sidewalk widths labeled
- Storefront shown with doors labeled
- Street elements shown with required buffers
- Path of travel and accessible routes with widths labeled
- Outline of proposed cafe space with dimensions
- Cafe furnishings including accessible seats and routes
- Percentage of ADA accessible seating
- Legend (optional)

Application Site Plan Example

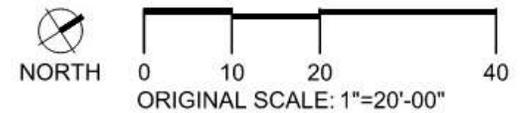
*If your establishment serves alcohol, you must comply with TABC requirements. If applicable, plans submitted for approval should indicate how TABC requirements are being met within outdoor areas.



Name:
Bayou & Brew Cafe

Address:
123 Main Street, Houston, Texas 77002

Date:
December 10, 2025



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APPENDIX

A list of resources and other reference materials that might be informative and applicable when applying for a sidewalk permit. This is not an exhaustive list of potential permits that tenants might be required to acquire. The tenant is responsible for identifying the applicable permits they need to obtain.

Supplemental Documents:

Tenant Encroachment Map

A diagram that lays out the path of travel, tenant encroachment space, and fire lanes within the promenade district.

List of Recommended Vendors

A list of vendors who meet the performance standard allowed by the guidelines. Tenants can select site elements from these vendors or use them as a reference for the level of quality.

Supporting Grants:

Outdoor Dining Permit Application

The permit process to apply for an outdoor dining permit. These standards and guidelines support the application.

Thrive Storefront Grants

A program supported by DTH+ that supports businesses through funding allowing tenants to improve their storefront.

Facade Grants

A program supported by DTH+ that supports businesses through funding allowing property owners to improve the facade of their building.

Al Fresco Grants

A program supported by DTH+ that supports businesses through funding allowing property owners to improve the permitted sidewalk cafe.

City Permitting and Ordinances:

City of Houston Permitting Center

Find permits, applications, requirements, fees, and inspection information for City of Houston projects.

TABC Ordinance

The ordinance that dictates the rules and requirements a tenant space will have to adhere to when selling alcoholic beverages.

City of Houston Signage Ordinance

The ordinance that dictates the rules and requirements for any type of signage.

City of Houston Historic Preservation: Certificates of Appropriateness

A certificate required for any projects that alter the exterior appearance of a designated historic property.

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Outdoor Dining Design Guidelines

[digital website link here]

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